



# Selfridge Community Service Notes 'n Stuff

*22 Nov 04 Vol 2 No. 6*

**In the background:**

"The proud warriors of Baker Company wanted to do something to pay tribute To our fallen comrades. So since we are part of the only Marine Infantry Battalion left in Iraq the one way that we could think of doing that is By taking a picture of Baker Company saying the way we feel. It would be awesome if you could find a way to share this with our fellow countrymen. I was wondering .....if there was any way to ..... let the world know that "WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN" and are proud to serve our country."  
Semper Fi" 1stSgt Dave Jobe

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Selfridge Community Service Events

**December 2004**

- TBD-** Selfridge Family Forum 2004 Issue update Call 307-5903
- 2-**Newcomer's Briefing 0830 Room 106 Child Care avail w/reservation call 307-5949
- 14-**Personal Finances for the First Term Service Member
- 16-** RACC (Relocation Assistance Coordinating Committee) Meeting, Bldg 970, for info call 307-5949. Relocation process suggestions and issues/concerns are addressed during the RACC
- 14-17-**Transition Assistance Program Workshop. Call 586-307-4258 to pre-register and for additional information

**January 2005**

- 6-**Newcomer's Briefing 0830 Room 106. Childcare available w/reservation call 307-5949
- 20-**Smooth Moves Briefing. Call 307-5949
- 20-**Financial Planning for Relocation in conjunction with the SCS Smooth Moves Briefing

**February 2005**

- 3-**Newcomer's Briefing 0830 Room 106. Child Care available w/reservation call 307-5949
- 8-11-**Transition Assistance Program Workshop. Call 586-307-4258 to pre-register and for additional information
- 8-**Checkbook Management & Budget Development

Selfridge Community Service Events

**March 2005**

- TBD-** Selfridge Family Forum 2005 Call 307-5903
- 3-**Newcomer's Briefing 0830 Room 106. Childcare available w/reservation call 307-5949
- 8-**Personal Finances for the First Term Service Member
- 17-** RACC (Relocation Assistance Coordinating Committee) Meeting, Bldg 970, for info call 307-5949. Relocation process suggestions and issues/concerns are addressed during the RACC

**April 2005**

- 7-**Newcomer's Briefing, 0830 room 106. Childcare available, call 307-5949
- 21-**Smooth Moves Briefing. Call 307-5949
- 21-**Financial Planning for Relocation in conjunction with the Smooth Moves Briefing
- 19-22-**Transition Assistance Program Workshop. Call 586-307-4258 to pre-register and for additional info
- 17-23-**National Volunteer Recognition Week Events
- TBD-**Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
- TBD-**AER Campaign Kickoff

**May 2005**

- 5-**Newcomer's Briefing 0830, Room 106 Child Care available, call 307-5949
- TBD** Military Spouse Day
- 10-**Checkbook Management & Budget Development



## MWR Highlights

### Frankenmuth Bus Trip- Saturday, 11 December 04.

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required 12 Nov. – 9 Dec. 04 (Limited Space Available). Frankenmuth has over 100 different shops and attractions, such as candy makers, woodcarvers, sausage makers, leather tooling, beer brewery and wool processing located in the Bavarian Village. Frankenmuth is also home to the Bavarian Inn who serves authentic German specialty meals and Zehnder's Restaurant who offers world famous family-style chicken dinners. Visit Michigan's #1 visitor attraction for some old world German charm.

**Cost:** \$ 7.00 **adult** \$ 5.00 **ages 5-12**

\*Lunch on your own. **For further information contact the Outdoor Recreation Center at (586) 307-5499**

**Holiday Wallyball Tournament** - This three day tournament will run from Monday, 6 Dec through Wednesday, 8 Dec from 1800 – 2100 hours (Dates and times depend on number of teams registered). The cost is \$20.00 per team which includes registration, trophies for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams and 1<sup>st</sup> place individual trophies. Also each participant will be entered in a drawing to win a holiday ornament!!! Wallyball is similar to volleyball except it is played in the racquetball court utilizing the walls. Teams play with 4 - 6 players with a roster of 8 individuals. Please contact the Sports Center at 307-5202/5571.

## Verify DEERS Information through new portal (1 Nov 04)

You can now view the current DEERS record information on a mobilized/deployed Guard or Reserve member by following these steps. (This is a temporary portal that is associated with the Employer ID portal until the new portal is established.) Click on this link: [www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal)

**Read** the Privacy Act Statement (Intended primarily for those using the site to enter employer data.)

If you agree to the Privacy Act Statement, **click** on "Agree"

**Enter** the Military Member's SSN, Last Name, and DOB. **Click** "Enter"

**You will see** DEERS current record data on:

Most Recent Active Duty Information, Early TRICARE Eligibility Period, Active Duty Period, Transitional Assistance Period

**If this information is not correct**, take a copy of the military member's active duty MOB/Deployment orders to the unit or personnel center that maintains the member's personnel data. At the very least, contact the Guard or Reserve unit where the military member drills/trains when not mobilized.

Director, Individual & Family Support Policy  
[www.defenselink.mil/ra/familyreadiness.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/familyreadiness.html)



**Job Search Success Stories:**  
**By Kevin B. Ware (Employment Readiness  
Program Manager)**

Ideally I would like to tell you that all Employment Readiness Program (ERP) clients have found employment by using the tools I have provided during their 120 days in the program. But that would not be true. However I can tell you that as the program manager for the ERP I have assisted over 350 clients in making their resumes, cover letter, using of the internet for their job search, and providing contact information to local employers. As of October 2004 the program assisted over 82 clients find employment in the Michigan area, and provided more than 176 referrals to local employers to date. The success of the program has been overwhelming to many even if they are only trying to up date their resume skills, or just seeking assistance in how to really look for employment. This is why I thought it would be a great idea to share with you some success stories of clients that have been through the ERP program this year, just to let you know that if you have the right direction you can also be successful in your job search.

**A man with a plan**

SFC (Ret) USA Mark Hill, a recent client with the Employment Readiness program, knew it was time to begin his job search on 08/06/04 as he

was soon to depart the Military. He needed some direction on how to begin his job search. At our appointment Mark had many questions but the one that peaked my interest went like this: He asked "Mr. Ware how do I get started on looking for employment? I have only worked in the Military and we never get information on resumes, cover letters, or Job sites to look into when we attend NCO leadership courses"

I assured Mark that it would not be to hard to start getting on the road to getting employment. First we began by looking at his resume and made some changes to it so that local employers would understand just what he had done in his 20 years of Military service. This is nothing more than a marketing tool. In any case Mark agreed to the changes to his resume and the content of the cover letter. In addition Mark also attended the Transition Assistance work shop that I sponsored through the Michigan Department of Education and Development. However, he indicated that the most helpful tools in his tool box were his new resume, cover letter, the internet information, and the Directory for Job seekers which I provided him at the U. S. Army Garrison-Michigan Selfridge ERP. Mark Hill works for LINC, his Job title is Operation Manager and his beginning pay is \$ 54,000.00 per year with paid leave. Mark said he would always tell people about this program as he has a career that is his passion and that was the most important thing for him after his 20 years of Military service.

### Increased Challenge and Income

SFC (Ret) USN Eric Fader, a recent client with the Employment Readiness Program knew it may have been past the time to begin his job search in July 2004. He was soon to depart the Military in a couple of days, but he knew he had to do something soon. He knew he needed some direction on how to begin his job search. At our appointment Eric had only one question, but one that once again got my interest, He asked "Mr. Ware how do I get started on looking for employment? I only have a couple days before I will be without a Job. I have worked in the Military and have attended college but at no point have I gotten much information on resumes, cover letters, and use of the internet for my Job Search.

I assured Eric that it would not be too hard to start getting on the road to getting employment. First we began by looking at his resume and made some changes to it so that local employers would understand just what he had done in his 20 years of Military service. Eric agreed to the changes to his resume and the content of the cover letter. Additionally Eric attended the Transition Assistance work shop in July 2004 that I sponsored through the Michigan Department of Education and Development. However he has indicated that the most helpful tools in his tool box were his new resume, cover letter,

the internet information, and the Directory for Job Seekers I provided him at U. S. Army Garrison-Michigan-Selfridge ERP. Eric Fader now works for Frog-Navigation Systems (Auburn Hills), his beginning pay is \$ 60,000.00 per year, with paid leave and many benefits. Eric also said he would always tell other people about this program. So there you have it; Success in the Job search arena, testimonies from real life clients of the Employment Readiness Program. If you are in need of assistance make sure you call your local U. S. Army Garrison- Michigan Employment Readiness Program Manager located at Selfridge Community Service, Bldg. 780, room 12, Open 07:30 am until 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, at 586-307-4258 for an appointment and let me assist you in looking for your passion in the work force.

### Free Packing Materials for Families of Deployed Personnel

The United States Postal Service is offering free packing materials to spouses and families of military members who are deployed overseas. To take advantage of this service call: 1-800-610-8734 and press 1 (for English & then 3 for an operator) and they will send you free boxes, packing materials, tape and mailing labels. These products are to be used to mail care packages to service members.

## DoD Stresses Troop Support Mail Policy

(Nov 02, 2004)

- The Department of Defense announced today the continued suspension of the "Any Servicemember" mail program. Accordingly, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members during the holiday season.
- During this time of the year, the number of donation programs increases and causes mail from families and friends to be mixed with mail from unknown sources resulting in delivery delays.
- DoD continues to emphasize that names and addresses of military service members must not be distributed by the media, Web sites, companies, non-profit organizations, schools and individuals for the purpose of collecting letters of support or donations for mailing to service members.
- Service members should receive mail only from those friends and family members to whom they personally give their address.
- Military addresses should not be passed around by family members for use by donation programs. Unknown mailers could then obtain those addresses and mail harmful items to service members. For these reasons, DoD continues to indefinitely suspend general donation programs from unknown mailers.
- Americans, who don't have loved ones deployed overseas, can still show support during the holidays by other means.

- A list of these programs is available at [http://www.defendamerica.mil/support\\_troops.html](http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html)

- To guarantee mail arrives in time for end of year holidays, family members are encouraged to view the mailing guidelines at <http://www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/welcome.htm>

### Gates Millennium Scholars program

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation seeks nominations for the Gates Millennium Scholars program for low-income students of color.
- **Eligibility:** Students are eligible to be considered for a GMS scholarship if they:
- Are African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American, Are a citizen/legal permanent resident or national of the United States,
- Have attained a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.00 scale (unweighted) at the time of nomination,
- Will be entering a U.S. accredited college or university as full-time, degree seeking freshmen in the Fall of 2005,
- Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities, and Meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria.
- **The Deadline for Submission of Nomination Materials is January 14, 2005 12:00 midnight (EST).** For more information about this scholarship and for application materials, visit [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org) or call 1-877-690-4677.



## DOD ANNOUNCES RECOMMENDED HOLIDAY MAIL DATES

The Department of Defense announced today the recommended mailing dates for ensuring that your holiday cards and packages for service members arrive overseas in time for the holiday season. "To ensure delivery ... to military APO/FPO addresses overseas and to international addresses, we suggest mail be sent by the recommended dates provided by the U.S. Postal Service," said Mark DeDomenic, the assistant deputy director and chief of operations for the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) in Washington, D.C. "Beat the last minute rush by bringing your mail to your post office by these suggested dates."

<b>Military Mail Addressed To</b>	<b>First Class Mail Letters/Cards</b>	<b>Priority Mail</b>	<b>Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Space Available Mail (SAM) <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Parcel Post(r)</b>
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 27	Nov 13
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 093	Dec 6	Dec 6	Dec 4	Nov 27	Nov 13
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 27	Nov 13
APO/FPO AA ZIPs 340	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 27	Nov 13
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 27	Nov 13

<sup>1</sup> PAL: A special service providing air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis, PAL is available for Parcel Post(r) not exceeding 30 lbs. in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

<sup>2</sup> SAM: Parcels paid at Parcel Post(r) postage rates are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis. The maximum weight and size limits are 15 lbs. and 60 inches in length and girth combined.

Eric Feterberg / AFP



## DOD ANNOUNCES RECOMMENDED HOLIDAY MAIL DATES.....

International Mail Addressed To	Global Express Guaranteed	Global Express Mail	Global Airmail Letters & Cards	Global Airmail Parcel Post	Global Economy (Surface)
Africa	Dec 20	Dec 11	Dec 6	Dec 6	Oct 14
Asia / Pacific Rim	Dec 20	Dec 17	Dec 13	Dec 13	Oct 28
Australia / New Zealand	Dec 20	Dec 17	Dec 13	Dec 13	Oct 28
Canada	Dec 21	Dec 18	Dec 13	Dec 13	Nov 19
Caribbean	Dec 20	Dec 17	Dec 13	Dec 13	Nov 5
Central & So. America	Dec 20	Dec 11	Dec 6	Dec 6	Oct 29
Mexico	Dec 20	Dec 17	Dec 13	Dec 13	Nov 5
Europe	Dec 20	Dec 11	Dec 13	Dec 10	Nov 5
Middle East	Dec 20	Dec 17	Dec 13	Dec 13	Oct 21

Due to security concerns and transportation constraints, DoD no longer accepts items to be mailed to "Any Service Member." Some people have tried to avoid this prohibition by sending large numbers of packages to an individual service member's overseas address, which clog the mail system and cause unnecessary delays in delivery.

DoD requests that those who send mail use the service member's full name (with or without rank or rating), unit and APO/FPO (Air/Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office) address with the nine-digit ZIP code (if one is assigned) and a return address. For packages, mailers are asked to print on one side only with the recipient's address in the lower right portion.

Eric Foberberg / AFP

**DOD ANNOUNCES RECOMMENDED HOLIDAY MAIL DATES.....**

Packages must not be mailed in boxes that have markings related to any type of hazardous material, such as bleach, alcohol, or cleaning fluids. Parcels found by the U.S. Postal Service with such markings or labels on the outside of the box will not be processed. Instead, they will be handled as non-mailable matter - regardless of the contents or what is listed on the U.S. Customs form.

While there are specific restrictions for each five-digit military post office ZIP code (APO/FPO), it is prohibited to mail the following items to the CENTCOM region: obscene articles (prints, paintings, cards, films, videotapes, etc.); pork or pork by-products; alcoholic beverages; any matter depicting nude or seminude persons, pornographic or sexual items, or unauthorized political materials. Although religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith are prohibited in bulk quantities, items for the personal use of the addressee are permissible.

There may be size restrictions and customs declaration form requirements to some locations as mail going through the MPSA can be subject to the host country customs requirements. The time to deliver varies depending on the category of mail and the country of destination. Delivery may also take longer when armed forces are on the move during periods of heightened activity.

**Photos that never make the news.....**



John Moore / AP



Damir Sagolj / Reuters

*Photos received via email and credited to each individual photographer. A powerful reminder of the great things our troops are doing for others...and for us.*



AMERICAN FORCES INFORMATION SERVICE

**NEWS ARTICLES**

*Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao joins Army Maj. Gen. Kenneth Farmer Jr., commanding general of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, and Navy Rear Adm. Adam M. Robinson, commanding officer of the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., at a signing ceremony to kick off the first phase of a program called REALifelines. The program is a joint commitment by the Department of Labor, the military medical community, and local agencies to help wounded veterans transition back into the private sector. The ceremony took place at Walter Reed on Oct. 4. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA*

(Click photo for screen-resolution image); [high-resolution image](#) available.

**New Employment Initiative for Wounded Vets  
Unveiled**

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5, 2004 -- Injured service members returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan will get individualized job training, counseling and re-employment services, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced Oct. 4.

During a signing ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here, Chao joined Army Maj. Gen. Kenneth Farmer Jr., commanding general at the Army hospital, and Navy Rear Adm. Adam M. Robinson, commanding officer of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., to kick off the first phase of REALifelines (Recovery and Employment Assistance Lifelines), a joint commitment by the Department of Labor, the military medical community and local agencies.

The Labor Department is investing \$500,000 into the first phase of the program, which will create a team of on-site counselors at both medical facilities to help wounded veterans in their transition back into the private sector. REALifeline counselors will help service members identify barriers to employment and set up individual recovery and re-employment plans, Chao said.

"They are going to help each person discover his or her personal interest and unique talent," she said.

"And they will help each veteran find the right career path to his or her special need."



She emphasized that "personalized care" will be a priority of the program. "If you have been wounded or injured serving this nation, real people are going to meet you face to face with the personalized help that you may need to recover and to succeed in a career that you love," Chao said.

The program will also provide a national tracking system to ensure follow-up services and link service members with local professionals able to support their recovery and re-employment through a range of services.

In addition, she said, a national call center will soon be available to answer questions and offer employment guidance to wounded veterans.

As part of the program, wounded veterans and their spouses also will be able to take advantage of services offered at more than 3,500 one-stop career centers the Department of Labor has set up nationwide.

"This administration is committed to ensuring that our nation's wounded veterans are treated with the respect and honor that they deserve," Chao told an audience of current and former soldiers -- some of them patients at the hospital -- others veterans in wheelchairs, and Purple Heart recipients. *On Sept. 27, the secretary signed a memorandum of understanding with the Justice Department that will ensure the employment rights of returning service members are protected under guidelines of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994.*

### False Rumor Regarding Destruction of Vet Records

There is a false rumor circulating on the Internet, in e-mails, and among veteran service organizations that Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, will be digitized and then destroyed. This rumor is NOT TRUE. Neither the Department of Defense (DoD) nor the National Personnel Records Center intend to destroy any OMPFs stored at the Center. The purpose of any electronic scanning would be to help preserve the originals and increase efficiency in handling reference requests.

The National Archives and Records Administration preserves and protects OMPFs that were transferred from the military service departments because they are permanently valuable records that document the essential evidence of military service for the veterans of our nation. NPRC stores and services OMPFs for retired, discharged, or deceased military personnel. The National Personnel Records Center responds to approximately 4,000 requests pertaining to military records each day, totaling more than one million requests each year. Many of those requests are for Separation Documents (usually DD Form 214) and the Center answers the majority of those inquiries in ten days or less.

Requests resulting from this false rumor will have a negative impact on NPRC's ability to respond to requests from veterans with real immediate needs, such as medical treatment, employment, retirement, etc.

View the entire article at: [http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2004/n10052004\\_2004100503.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2004/n10052004_2004100503.html)



- **Military OneSource** is designed to help any service member or family members deal with life's issues. Trained consultants are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. You can call within the US (800-342-9647), or internationally (either toll free 800-3429-6477 or collect 484-530-5947) and speak to a master's level consultant or you can go online to access information at:
- <http://militaryonesource.com/>
- **Military OneSource** Online can provide help to cope with life's little -- and not so little -- issues. You can click on a topic of interest on the left side of the home page under the "How May We Help You?" heading, or use the key word search in the top right corner. You can access informative articles, helpful tools, audio tips on hundreds of specific topics, and much more. Log on to access: Online articles, worksheets, and suggested reading lists, Free educational materials e.g. booklets, CDs, and audiotapes, Locators (summer camps, child care, etc.), and, Interactive tools. For additional Information, call Selfridge Community Service (SCS) at 586-307-5903/4475/5949 or send an email to

[SCS@tacom.army.mil](mailto:SCS@tacom.army.mil) .

## Notes 'n Stuff

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U.S. Army Garrison-Michigan

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